

An aerial photograph of a large dam and reservoir. The dam is a concrete structure with multiple spillways, situated in a valley. The reservoir is filled with dark water. The surrounding area is lush with green trees and vegetation. A road and some buildings are visible near the dam. The text "ACCESS TO FEDERAL STORED WATER WILLAMETTE BASIN" is overlaid in large white letters at the top of the image.

ACCESS TO FEDERAL STORED WATER WILLAMETTE BASIN

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Why Are Water Providers Interested?

- Responsibility to serve growing communities
- Limited future water supply options
- Long term investments required
- Confirm stored water in Willamette Basin projects is an option



Willamette Basin Project Overview

- 1954/1968 – USBOR filed water right applications
- 1996-Storage certificates issued to USBOR
- **Water Rights:** stored water for irrigation only

Barriers to Stored Water:

- Storage water rights - irrigation only
- Costs allocated to some uses
- Storage space not allocated***
- Reallocation requires \$\$\$
- Cost of water/contracting program

Seeking Access to Stored Water

Long Process Few Results

- Willamette Basin Program 1992
- “Reservation” request- 1994
- Willamette Basin Reservoir Study- 1996
- Study put on hold due to ESA listing- 2000
- SWMWP Report 2008
- Biological Opinion (Bi-Op) issued – 2008

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On-going concerns

Bi-op implementation



- Bi-op term is 15 years (2023)
- RPAs include:
 - Conversion of stored water minimum perennial streamflows
 - Transfer additional stored water instream

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On-going concerns

- Action without planning (lack of \$\$)
- Impact to existing users of “natural flow”
- Last good option unresolved
- Chaos and lawsuits



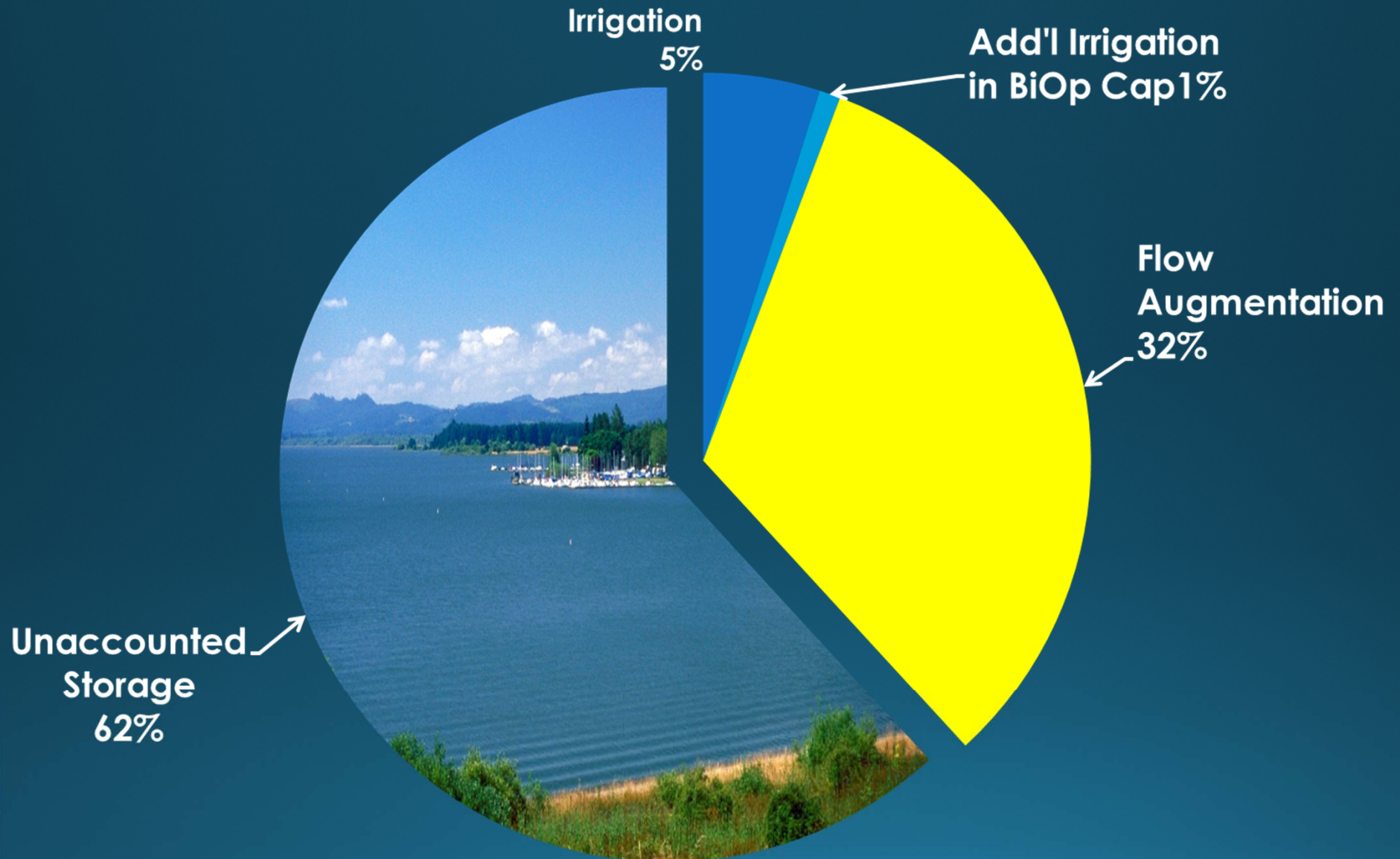
Seeking Access to Stored Water

Focused, proactive, collaborative

- OWUC Project Manager
- Stakeholders
- State of Oregon
- Federal Agencies
- Congress



Storage in Willamette Basin Projects



Conclusions

- Complex issues that require Federal, State and stakeholder involvement
- Bi-op flow targets and water rights being met with 38% of stored water
- A perfect opportunity for an integrated water resources strategy
- Without deliberate process and planning:
 - protracted litigation
 - impact to existing water rights

QUESTIONS?

